

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

---

*Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700*

---

***For Immediate Release***

**FEBRUARY 22, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 17, 2005, **SHELDON T. BRYANT**, a/k/a “**De De**,” age 27, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BRYANT, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine, was sentenced to 132 months’ imprisonment, 4 years’ supervised release and was fined \$350.

The investigation established that, between October 2001, and October 1, 2003, BRYANT was involved with others in the distribution of crack cocaine in Carbondale, Illinois. On September 29, 2003, and October 1, 2003, BRYANT sold crack cocaine to a confidential source working for law enforcement. When agents executed a search warrant at BRYANT’s Carbondale residence, they located, crack cocaine, pre-recorded buy money, an air pistol, a BB gun, and .38 caliber ammunition. BRYANT received an enhanced sentence because of his use of a firearm during his crack cocaine involvement.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The goal of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is to remove illegal guns and drugs from our communities. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney’s Office, Jackson County States Attorney’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Murphysboro Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.